

Message Text

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ORIGIN EPAE-00

INFO OCT-01 IO-14 ISO-00 OES-09 HEW-06 EB-08 AID-05
L-03 CEQ-01 CIAE-00 SOE-02 COME-00 DODE-00 EPA-04
INR-10 NSF-02 NSAE-00 PM-05 SS-15 SP-02 DOE-15
INT-05 NSCE-00 SSO-00 ICAE-00 INRE-00 /107 R

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OES/ENP/EN - H. SPIELMAN
EUR/RPE - L. MORRIS (INFO)
IO/IEP - J.SIMMONS (IN SUBSTANCE)
EPA/A-106 - J. WOOD
-----011168 292332Z /14
O 292303Z AUG 78
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO USMISSION GENEVA IMMEDIATE

UNCLAS STATE 219750

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS:SENV, ECE

SUBJECT: ECE AD HOC MEETING ON TOXIC SUBSTANCES AND TOXIC
WASTES, AUG 30 SEPT.1, 1978

1. WE REGRET INABILITY TO PROVIDE REPRESENTATIVE FROM
WASHINGTON TO ATTEND SUBJECT MEETING, AUGUST 30 - SEPTEMBER
1ST, AS PLANNED. REQUEST MISSION PARTICIPATE IN MEETING
AND, AS APPROPRIATE, SET FORTH FOLLOWING POINTS IN REGARD TO
POSSIBLE FUTURE ECE PROGRAM IN TOXIC SUBSTANCES AND TOXIC
WASTES AREAS.

2. U. S. CONSIDERS THAT, IN LIGHT OF CURRENT STATE OF IN-
TERNATIONAL DELIBERATIONS PROCEEDING ELSEWHERE, PROPOSAL IN
ENV/R.69 PARAS. 58 - 59 TO BEGIN STEPS TOWARD FRAMEWORK CON-
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VENTION IS SOMEWHAT PREMATURE. FYI: WHILE ULTIMATELY DE-
SIRABLE, HARMONIZATION ACTIVITIES WITHIN WESTERN EUROPE IS
STILL IN EARLY STAGES. BEFORE SUCH HARMONIZATION FULLY ON
TRACK MOVING TOWARD EAST-WEST AGREEMENT WOULD NEITHER
ASSIST PROCESS IN WEST NOR MAKE FOR COHESIVE EAST-WEST
EFFORT. ALSO, THERE IS NO AGREEMENT WITHIN USG THAT INTER-
NATIONAL CONVENTION SHOULD BE REGIONAL, FUNNELED THROUGH

ECE, RATHER THAN GLOBAL, ACHIEVED PERHAPS THROUGH UNEP. END
FYI.

3. EXAMINING RECOMMENDED AREAS FOR INTERNATIONAL ACTION
RESULTING FROM APRIL, 1978, STOCKHOLM MEETING ON REGULA-
TION OF TOXIC SUBSTANCES, US SEES LABELING AS ONE IM-
PORTANT AREA NOT CURRENTLY UNDERGOING EXAMINATION BY OTHER
INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS. AN ECE PROJECT COULD COMPLE-
MENT EFFORTS MADE IN DIRECTION OF STANDARDIZED LABELING BY
EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES, ECOSOC AND IMCO. ALSO, ECE RECORD
IN REGARD TO EASING SIMILAR OBSTACLES TO TRANSPORTATION
AND TRADE BETWEEN EAST AND WEST EUROPE MAKES THIS AN AREA
IN WHICH ECE COULD POSSIBLY MAKE POSITIVE CONTRIBUTION.
LABELING FOR CONSUMERS AND FOR EXPORT ARE CONCERNS OF U.S.
GOVERNMENT, INCLUDING WHITE HOUSE AND CONGRESSIONAL AG-
RICULTURE COMMITTEES, AND SUBCOMMITTEE OF HOUSE INTER-
NATIONAL RELATIONS COMMITTEE. EXPORT-PRODUCT LABELING
COULD DIRECTLY ADVISE IMPORTERS AND IMPORT CONTROL
AUTHORITIES OF HAZARD ASSOCIATED WITH THE PRODUCT AND ITS
STATUS IN REGARD TO EXPORTING COUNTRY'S REGULATIONS, AS
WELL AS CONTRIBUTE TO PURCHASER-USER AWARENESS.

4. SPECIFICALLY, ECE COULD EXAMINE CURRENT NATIONAL AND
INTERNATIONAL LABELING REQUIREMENTS OR PROGRAMS AND
RECOMMEND BASIC LABELING GUIDELINES AS TO PICTORIAL OR
GRAPHIC REPRESENTATIONS, TYPES OF INFORMATION TO BE CON-
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VEYED ON LABEL (HAZARD, LEGAL), AND EXTENT OF CONTENT
DESCRIPTIONS, AS EXAMPLES.

5. IN REGARD TO TOXIC WASTES, U. S. SUPPORTS SUGGESTION
IN ECE/ENV/R.69, PARA. 60, RE CONVENING A SEMINAR ON TOXIC
WASTES. DISPOSAL OF TOXIC WASTES IS AN INCREASINGLY IM-
PORTANT ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUE TO U. S., ESPECIALLY IN LIGHT
OF 1976 RESOURCE CONSERVATION AND RECOVERY ACT. A SEMI-
NAR, AT WHICH NATIONAL EXPERTS COULD SHARE INFORMATION ON
DISPOSAL PRACTICES AND POLICIES WOULD CONTRIBUTE TO IN-
CREASED AWARENESS ASSOCIATED WITH DISPOSAL OF HAZARDOUS
WASTES.

6. ECE COULD ALSO PERFORM BASIC INFORMATION EXCHANGE
FUNCTION BY COLLECTING, ASSEMBLING AND DISTRIBUTING IN-
FORMATION ON PERTINENT CURRENT NATIONAL LAWS AND PROGRAMS
ON HAZARDOUS WASTE. THIS EFFORT WOULD BE SIMILAR TO
PREVIOUS ECE REVIEW, ECE/ENV/R. 44 AND ADD. 1.

7. IDEAS ABOVE ARE PREDICATED ON U. S. CONVICTION THAT
(1) TOXIC SUBSTANCES AND TOXIC WASTES CONTROL ARE BOTH
IMPORTANT TOPICS OF DOMESTIC AS WELL AS INTERNATIONAL

CONCERN AND U. S. IS CONCERNED WITH ECONOMIC/TRADE ISSUES AS WELL AS HUMAN AND ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH ASPECTS, (2) UNDESIRABLE DUPLICATION OF ACTIVITIES AMONG INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS SHOULD BE AVOIDED WHILE COMPLEMENTARY ACTIVITIES SHOULD BE ENCOURAGED, AND (3) PROLIFERATION OF INTERNATIONAL PROGRAMS WHICH MAY DRAIN SMALL POOL OF NATIONAL EXPERTS ALREADY BURDENED BY DOMESTIC RESPONSIBILITIES AND OTHER INTERNATIONAL COMMITMENTS SHOULD BE AVOIDED. FYI: U. S. EPA IS ALREADY STRONGLY COMMITTED TO INTERNATIONAL ACTION THROUGH OECD CHEMICALS GROUP, PROPOSED OECD PART II CHEMICALS PROGRAM, AND BILATERAL NEGOTIATIONS WITH EUROPEAN COMMUNITY ON TOXIC SUBSTANCES AND IN CCMS REGARDING HAZARDOUS WASTES. END FYI

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8. MISSION SUMMARY OF OUTCOME SUBJECT MEETING WOULD BE HIGHLY APPRECIATED. CHRISTOPHER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
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Draft Date: 29 aug 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
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Disposition Remarks:
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